



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

February 8, 2019

Sent via email

Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 62604
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Somerville, MA 02144-2516

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Dear Ms. Best,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Your original request, dated October 18, 2018, sought:

- “Records mentioning or generated as a result of liaisons and contacts between CIA officials and the following Dept. of Agriculture personnel:
 - IRWIN, Rick (contracting officer)
 - BROCATO, Louis (project engineer)
 - BLUM, Judy - contact in 1973 re incentive awards positions
 - EMERSON, Leonard - Agricultural Research Service - contact in 1975 re Agricultural Scientist positions...
 - This request may be limited to the beginning of 1970 through the end of 1979.”

Your REE request was routed to the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) FOIA Office of USDA on October 29, 2018, and assigned tracking number 2019-REE-00651-F.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Agricultural Library (NAL) conducted a search of its USDA History Collection and the ARS Biological Control Documentation Center Working Files, but did not locate records regarding any of the four people and the CIA. For this reason, I am unable to provide you any responsive records.

NAL advised that if such records were scheduled as permanent records, they would be maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For your knowledge, the USDA archivist at NARA is Joseph Schwarz, and can be reached at joseph.schwarz@nara.gov or 301-837-2961.

You may administratively appeal the adequacy of the search by writing to the Administrator, ARS, USDA, Room 302-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 days of the date of the response to your request. The phrase "FOIA Appeal" should be placed in capital letters on the front of the envelope containing the appeal.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact this office at 301-504-1655 or REEFOIA@ars.usda.gov, our FOIA Public Liaison or FOIA Requester Service Center at 301-504-1743 or REEFOIA@ars.usda.gov.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about its FOIA mediation services. The contact information for OGIS is: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; ogis@nara.gov; 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877- 684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

JD Wyllie

JD Wyllie
Director
Office of Communications